

Message Text

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15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 030808Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2093

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2858

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SOLARZ, STEPHEN)

SUBJ: CODEL SOLARZ

REF: STATE 263087

1. DIFFICULT TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION CATEGORICALLY
BECAUSE PROPOSED VISIT WITH FOCUS ON INVESTI-
GATING STATUS OF SYRIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY IS FIRST
SUCH PLANNED IN OUR EXPERIENCE.

2. FOLLOWING SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND:

A. THIS EMBASSY WOULD BE FULLY INVOLVED ALONG WITH SARG
OFFICIALS IN PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF VISIT. CODEL SHOULD
NOT RPT NOT COME HERE EXPECTING TO MAKE CONTACTS WITH JEWISH
COMMUNITY ON HIS OWN. SUCH APPROACH WOULD, IN OUR OPINION,
UNQUESTIONABLY JEOPARDIZE INTEREST OF INDIVIDUALS HE
MIGHT SEEK CONTACT.

B. WHILE WE PREPARED MAKE MAXIMUM EFFORT WIN SARG
APPROVAL OF CODEL'S VISIT, PROSPECTS
ARE UNCERTAIN THAT SARG WILL AGREE TO WHAT IT WOULD
SEE AS PROBE INTO ITS DOMESTIC POLICY.

C. IF SARG APPROVES VISIT, ITS SUCCESS WILL DEPEND HEAVILY
ON HOW CODEL REACTS TO SARG ORGANIZED TOUR. (THERE ARE
OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED REPS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY HERE WHO
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ARE RECEIVED BY SARG OFFICIALS AS SPOKESMEN FOR THE

COMMUNITY. IF CODEL FELT HE WAS BEING GIVEN A WHITEWASH JOB BY FOLLOWING A SARG SCENARIO AND BEING PUT IN CONTACT ONLY OR MAINLY WITH THE "OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES", THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO EVERYONE'S INTERESTS.)

3. IN ANY EVENT, BEFORE THERE FURTHER CONTACT WITH CODEL, AGAIN URGE THAT PROSPECT OF THIS VISIT BE BROUGHT TO PERSONAL ATTENTION OF SECRETARY.
MURPHY

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NNN

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